

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HALIFA 00211 271822Z
ACTION EUR-12

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L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1637
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

UNCLAS HALIFAX 0211

E O 11652: N/A
TAGS: EFIS PBOR PLOS ENRG CA US
SUBJECT: NOVA SCOTIA PREMIER DISCUSSES BOUNDARY
NEGOTIATIONS: PRESS REPORT

1. IN 5/25/77 INTERVIEW FRONT-PAGED NEXT DAY IN
HALIFAX "CHRONICLE-HERALD", NS PREMIER GERALD REGAN
SAID HE EXPECTED "REAL BENEFITS" FROM UPCOMING
FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING OF NEW ENGLAND GOVERNORS AND
EASTERN CANADA PREMIERS WHICH WILL BE HELD AT DIGBY,
NS, JUNE 23-26. AMONG THESE BENEFITS, HE BELIEVES,
WILL BE INFLUENCE ON US AND CANADIAN BOUNDARY NEGOTIATORS OF AGREEMENTS BETWEEN GOVERNORS AND PREMIERS ON THE GEORGES BANK ISSUE.

2. REGAN ALSO DISCUSSED ENERGY MATTERS WHICH WILL
BE FEATURED ON AGENDA OF DIGBY MEETING. HE NOTED
THAT FUNDY TIDAL POWER WAS ATTRACTING INCREASING
INTEREST AMONG THE GOVERNORS BUT THAT THERE ARE
"MANY PROBLEMS" STANDING IN THE WAY OF THE EVENTUAL
SALE OF SURPLUS POWER SOUTH OF THE BORDER. ARTICLE
INDICATED THAT COMPLEXITIES AROSE FROM FACT THAT
NEW ENGLAND POWER COMPANIES ARE PRIVATELY OWNED.

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3. COMMENT. I ASKED PROVINCIAL FISHERIES MINISTER
DAN REID IF THE PREMIER HAD TOLD HIM JUST HOW ANY
AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE GOVERNORS AND THE PREMIERS
MIGHT INFLUENCE THE BOUNDARY NEGOTIATORS. HE HAD
NOT BEEN BRIEFED ON THIS BY THE PREMIER AND THERE-
FORE COULD ONLY SPECULATE THAT HE WAS HOPEFUL THAT
THE NEW ENGLAND GOVERNORS WOULD NOT WANT TO JEOPARDIZE

THE EXISTENCE OF AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE CANADIAN
FISHING INDUSTRY, AND THAT THEY WOULD JOIN WITH THE
PREMIERS IN A CALL TO CONCEDE THE NORTHERN THIRD
OF GEORGES BANK TO CANADA. THE PREMIER WAS UNAVAIL-
ABLE FOR COMMENT ON THE LIKELIHOOD OF THIS SCENARIO.
END COMMENT.

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